

Energy Update

Home Efficiency Special Edition Newsletter from the SDSU Energy Analysis Lab

- Any questions and/or comments can be directed to: sdsu.energy.analysis@gmail.com
- If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, please contact the email above.

Living Green

Indoor Compost without the Odor



For homeowners that live in a more urban area, but would still like to use compost for their plants or small gardens, a solution has been developed. The NatureMill is an indoor composter that works all day, every day. Homeowners simply add waste items and the unit rotates the waste at evenly timed intervals while maintaining a temperature of 140°F. The unit delivers a batch of high-nitrogen compost every two weeks. See more at www.naturemill.com.

Energy Efficiency

You can save as much as 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills by simply turning your thermostat back 10% to 15% for 8 hours a day. You can do this automatically by installing a programmable thermostat.



By using a programmable thermostat, you can adjust the times you turn on the heating or air-conditioning according to a preset schedule. Programmable thermostats can store and repeat multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the rest of the daily or weekly program. When shopping for a programmable thermostat, be sure to look for the ENERGY STAR label.

Gray Water Systems for Home Use

In homes across the U.S., the bathroom accounts for 74% of water used. About 5 percent of all domestic water consumption runs from the lavatory faucet into the sink, and eventually into the sewer. About 40 percent of all domestic water consumed is used to flush toilets. To capture and reuse some of this lavatory water, WaterSaver Technologies developed their system, which uses water from the bathroom sinks to flush the toilets. Their system can help individual households, schools, government structures and multi-family complexes save water and money. There is no change to the normal operation of your lavatory sink and toilet, and the installation is quite simple, as the unit fits neatly underneath any home lavatory.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water, more than 4.8 billion gallons of water is flushed down U.S. toilets each day. The American Water Works Association estimates that if water-saving features were installed in every U.S. household, water use would decrease by 30 percent. That would reduce daily water used by about 5.4 billion gallons, resulting in \$11.3 million dollar-volume savings a day. That's a savings that anyone can get behind. To learn more, visit www.watersavertech.com.

Living Green

New Energy Star for TVs Calls for Better Efficiency

The Energy Star for TVs standards were released on September 3 and manufacturers will need to up efficiency and keep sizes in check if they want the coveted label.

The Version 4 sticker, coming May 1, 2010, will require a 40 percent increase in efficiency over TVs sold today and the Version 5 sticker, coming May 2012, will require a 65 percent increase. The new ratings will reflect the energy consumed when the TV is in "On Mode" as well as when it's off but downloading programming information.

Making it harder to qualify for the Energy Star label will hopefully drive up efficiency on all TV models. TVs account for four percent of all households' electricity use in the U.S. According to the EPA, there are 275 million TVs in use in the country, consuming 50 billion kWh per year - enough to power all the homes in the state of New York for a year.